STATEMENT OF HON. A. S. MIKE MONRONEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

UNITED STATES QUARTERLY BOOK LIST

Representative MONRONEY. Members of the committee: I am Mike Monroney, Representative of the Fifth District of Oklahoma. I appreciate the opportunity of appearing here to take up a few minutes of your time about a project in which I am very much interested, and out of which I believe the United States Government is getting a tremendous value. It is the Quarterly Book List, which has been described by Senator Smith and Representative Case.

This summer, while I was with the Herter committee in Europe, I had an excellent opportunity to check in 18 foreign countries as to the use of this Quarterly Book List, and almost universally I found the men in charge of our information centers there said that this was the most asked for and the most used instrument of impressing Europe with the best of our cultural production.

In this day and age, when we are having difficulty, as you well know, in putting America's position before the world, I think it is significant that we have this weapon to bring about the summary of our very best books, the top 10 percent of our very best books, to European

scholars, and impress them with the cultural achievements of this country.

As Representative Case has said, it costs but $24,571 to continue this. If it were allowed to lapse, I venture the assertion that it would probably cost 10 or 20 times that amount to reestablish it, because you have over 800 scholars who have been working as a labor of love in reviewing these books. The only compensation they get is to keep the original copy of the book. And from all the efforts made to review these books, only the top 10 percent are finally chosen by the editors in the Library of Congress.

As you know from Representative Case's statement, the publication costs have been shouldered by Rutgers University, which results in about a third saving in the cost of this publication.

I do not know of anything that we are doing in the field of foreign relations that is more valuable, and I would like to introduce into the record and read very briefly, excerpts from a letter from Mr. Sargeant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs:

"I should make it clear that this decision—that is, in not being able to continue the financing of it with cooperative funds in the Department of State—did not in any way imply a judgment as to the inherent value of the United States Quarterly Book List, but was purely an administrative decision as to its eligibility for continued inclusion within the frame-work of the Interdepartmental Committee's program. * * *

There is, I believe, no question as to the value of the United States Quarterly Book List in promoting the growing recognition abroad of American intellectual achievements, which in the past, except in the field of technology, have been little known to foreigners. The book list was begun as the result of a recommendation by the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace * * *.

* * * It is our opinion that the book list renders an important service to the growth of international understanding and the development of international scholarship.

(The letter referred to is as follows:)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.
Washington, May 11, 1948.

Hon. A. S. MIKE MONRONEY,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. MONRONEY: I am happy to supply the information which you requested with respect to the United States Quarterly Book List.

Up to the present time, funds have been appropriated to the Department of State for the United States Quarterly Book List under the appropriation "Cooperation with the American Republics". Acting upon the recommendation of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, the Department of State has allocated the funds for the United States Quarterly Book List to the Library of Congress. In preparing budget estimates for the fiscal year 1949, representatives of the State Department discussed the United States Quarterly Book List with the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation. It was agreed in these discussions that the book list differed from the normal projects carried out under the auspices of the Interdepartmental Committee by participating Government agencies with funds allocated from the appropriation "Cooperation with the American Republics." The book list was not a cooperative project in the usual sense that financial support was also provided by one or more of the other republics of this hemisphere.

I should make it clear that this decision did not in any way imply a judgment as to the inherent value of the United States Quarterly Book List, but was purely an administrative decision as to its eligibility for continued inclusion within the framework of the interdepartmental committee's program. Certain activities of the Department of State's program, although considered of definite value in

developing international understanding, were at the same time and for the same reason also omitted from these estimates.

There is, I believe, no question as to the value of the United States Quarterly Book List in promoting the growing recognition abroad of American intellectual achievements, which in the past, except in the field of technology, have been little known to foreigners. The book list was begun as the result of a recommendation by the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, held in Buenos Aires in 1936, which urged all the American Republics to issue quarterly bulletins, giving notice of recently published books of a scientific, historical, literary or artistic nature, for distribution among other countries. The United States took the lead in carrying out this recommendation. So far none of the other American Republics has acted on it but interest has been aroused by the United States Quarterly Book List not only in this hemisphere but also in Europe, as has been indicated by an editorial in an English scientific periodical urging the British Government to follow our example. In the other American Republics the volume of book publication is considerably less than in this country and a quarterly list might not in all cases be justified; a few governments have, however, sponsored occasional bibliographic lists, copies of which have been sent to the Library of Congress.

During the past 2 years the Department of State has purchased a thousand copies of each issue of the United States Quarterly Book List for distribution abroad, 700 copies being sent to countries in the Eastern Hemisphere.

It was with the above considerations in mind that, in a letter dated August 5, 1947, to the Librarian of Congress, I stated that if the Library decided to request an appropriation directly from the Congress for the continuation of the United States Quarterly Book List, the Department was prepared to endorse and support such a request. It is our opinion that the book list renders an important service to the growth of international understanding and the development of international scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

HOWLAND H. SARGEANT,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

Representative MONRONEY. You have the testimoney of the State Department.

I have letters here which I will not bother to read to you. I have a letter from Mr. Harry West, of the American Book Publishers Council, which is the trade organization of all of the private book publishers. In closing, Mr. West says:

The principal point is that State Department Information Library reports from all over the world, we understand, indicate the utility and popularity of the list as expressed by citizens of foreign countries. If we are at long last to realize the need to disseminate information on this country to those abroad who so desperately want and need it, publications like the United States Quarterly should obviously not be discontinued. You may be sure that certain foreign governments, whose interests are inimical to our own, realize and take full advantage of the value of books as a means of spreading their particular and undemocratic ideologies.

That is from the private book publishers association. I would like to leave that for the record, if I may.

(The letter referred to is as follows:)

AMERICAN BOOK PUBLISHERS COUNCIL, INC.,
New York 19, N. Y., May 19, 1948.

Hon. MIKE MONRONEY,
House of Representatives,
New House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. MONRONEY: Let me express warm appreciation of your thoughtfulness in writing me as you did on May 15 concerning the appropriation for the United States Quarterly Book List. I regret that you were unable to reach me by phone, but your letter is so clear that I imagine it contains all the points you

intended making. In addition, I had a talk with Joe Brandt of Henry Holt & Co. who repeated to me the gist of your conversation with him.

Perhaps you will regard the attached copy of a letter going forward today to Senator Young, with copies to each member of the Subcommittee on Appropriations, as an adequate opening step in making known our point of view with respect to the continuance of the United States Quarterly Book List. In addition, I am particularly anxious to persuade the Subcommittee on Appropriations to listen personally to Mr. James S. Thompson, executive chairman of the board, McGraw-Hill Book Co. Of all book publishers, Mr. Thompson has probably been more intimately associated with the Quarterly Book List than any other. Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, has for several years had Mr. Thompson on his Quarterly Book List Advisory Committee. As a matter of fact, Mr. Thompson is the American Book Publishers Council's official delegate on that committee, and as such speaks for all our member-publishers.

Once before, in connection with a series of conversations Dr. Evans was having with the State Department appropos of obtaining from the latter agency the necessary funds to carry on the book list, a number of book publishers wired Dr. Evans in the hope that this important publication would be continued. Presumably the same publishers, and I believe there were some 30 or 40 of them, would be willing to write or wire their comments to Senator Young and the members of his committee. I am suggesting to them by a special release today that they do so.

I hope you will be good enough to keep me informed as to progress in this matter and that you will not hestitate to phone me collect at any time you have further suggestions to make. I am deeply grateful for those you have already made and I agree wholeheartedly with your sentiments. There are those, frankly, who feel there is still room for improvement in the list, but that will come as time goes on; in fact, the list in its present form marks a great improvement over earlier versions. Naturally any new publication takes time to settle down.

The principal point is that State Department Information Library reports from all over the world, we understand, indicate the utility and popularity of the list as expressed by citizens of foreign countries. If we are at long last to realize the need to disseminate information on this country to those abroad who so desperately want and need it, publications like the U. S. Quarterly should obviously not be discontinued. You may be sure that certain foreign governments, whose interests are inimical to our own, realize and take full advantage of the value of books as a means of spreading their particular and undemocratic ideologies.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY F. WEST,
Managing Director.

P. S. A copy of our pamphlet Books in World Rehabilitation is going forward to you under separate cover.

Representative MONRONEY. On top of that, you have statements which I think some of the members of this distinguished committee have received from Mr. Datus C. Smith, Jr., who is managing director of the Association of American University Presses; that is, the presses of the universities which deal more or less in technical and scholarly books, and which likewise have given unqualified endorsement to this project.

I think from all of the evidence that has been presented to me that I have seen in actual practice, there is no way that the Government could possibly get the value out of $24,500 in any other way than through the expenditure for the continuation of this very valuable asset to foreign policy.

(The letter referred to is as follows:)

(Copy of letter sent to Senators Milton R. Young, of North Dakota; Styles Bridges, of New Hampshire; Leverett Saltonstall, of

Massachusetts; Harry C. Dworshak, of Idaho; Millard Tydings, of Maryland; Theodore F. Green, of Rhode Island.)

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES,
Princeton, N. J., May 17, 1948.

Hon. HARRY C. DWORSHAK,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR DWORSHAK: I have been greatly disturbed at learning that the $25,000 appropriation for continuation of the United States Quarterly Book List editorial budget has been canceled, and I write to urge that you do everything possible to restore this important item.

According to my understanding, the entire cost of manufacturing and distributing this journal is borne by a nongovernmental agency (Rutgers University Press) so that for the comparatively small editorial disbursement the Government achieves a result far greater than the $25,000 appropriation would seem to suggest.

To my knowledge there is no other agency in the world today of greater importance than the United States Quarterly Book List in maintaining cultural relations between the United States and the other countries; and no publication of greater importance in implementing the policy our country has adopted through such measures as ERP. Books and such enterprises as the United States Quarterly Book List are of obvious ideological importance to our foreign policy; but in many ways they are also tools of rehabilitation.

I do hope you will find it possible to restore this $25,000 item to the appropriation.

Sincerely yours,

DATUS C. SMITH, JR.

Representative MONRONEY. I believe the matter was not understood in the House, because I discussed this matter with the chairman of the House Committee on Legislative Appropriations, and he was under the impression that the State Department did not appreciate the value of it, and therefore did not continue its financing; and the letter which I have secured and put in the record makes it crystal clear that it was impossible to continue it under the present funds, because they were cooperative funds for cooperation between this Government and Latin America. The Latin-American countries had not started their own book lists, and so it had to be changed. And I think the Library of Congress very wisely is the place for this to be done, on a very, very economical basis.

Thank you.

Senator YOUNG. Are there any questions?

Thank you.

We will introduce several letters in the record on this subject at this point.

(The letters are as follows:)

WILLIAM SLOANE ASSOCIATES, INC.,
New York 19, N. Y., May 24, 1948

Senator MILTON R. YOUNG,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR YOUNG: We understand that your Committee on Appropriations is considering whether or not to continue the United States Quarterly Book List which is asking, we hear, the sum of $25,000 for the continuation during the next fiscal year. Such Quarterly Book List is an almost indispensable tool for the wider dissemination, in the rest of the world, of American books. We don't feel that the list itself or the use made of it have been, in the past, by any means perfect. There has been a steady improvement, and undoubtedly the list is a bargain in terms of the world-wide penetration of American ideas and the American point of view.

This letter is a suggestion from at least one publisher that the appropriation be authorized and the list continued.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM SLOANE.

POCKET BOOKS, INC.,
New York 20, N. Y., May 24, 1948.

Senator MILTON R. YOUNG,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Appropriations,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR YOUNG: We understand that the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations is now considering the advisability of including $25,000 in the legislative appropriation bill to make possible the continued life of the United States Quarterly Book List.

The writer is familiar with the excellent promotional value, in his opinion, of this book list, particularly in foreign countries. It is of great help in acquainting not only our staffs of the United States Information Service libraries but the friends of democracy, who are anxious to see and help in a wider dissemination of American literature. I consider this a very important means of carrying forward the objectives which we are all anxious to see fulfilled, and I strongly urge the approval of the $25,000 appropriation to make this possible.

Sincerely,

POCKET BOOKS, INC.,
ROBERT F. DE GRAFF,
President.

UNITED STATES QUARTERLY BOOK LIST

MAY 27, 1948.

Mr. HERMAN H. HENKLE,
Librarian, the John Crerar Library,
Chicago, Ill.

Hearings on legislative appropriations bill scheduled to start Friday afternoon.

JOHN O. HJELLE,
Administrative assistant to Milton R. Young, United States Senator.

THE JOHN CRERAR LIBRARY,
Chicago, Ill., May 21, 1948.

Mr. JOHN O. HJELLE,
Administrative Assistant, Office of Milton R. Young,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. HJELLE: Thank you very much for your attention to my interests during our telephone conversation last week, and for your letter of May 18.

I shall certainly appreciate being informed as to the time of the Senate hearings on the appropriations bill.

Mr. Fagerhaugh was very pleased to receive your personal greetings.

Sincerely yours,

HERMAN H. HENKLE, *Librarian.*

MAY 18, 1948.

Mr. HERMAN H. HENKLE,
Librarian, John Crerar Library,
Chicago, Ill.

DEAR MR. HENKLE: Since talking with you over the telephone the other day, I have checked as to the probable date for the start of hearings on the legislative appropriations bill.

You will be interested in knowing that I have received a large number of letters on this same matter from people all over the country.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

MILTON R. YOUNG,
United States Senator.

AMERICAN BOOK PUBLISHERS COUNCIL, INC.,
New York 19, N. Y., May 49, 1948.

Hon. MILTON R. YOUNG,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR YOUNG: By way of identification, the members of this organization are the major publishers in the United States of general reading books, college textbooks, scientific and technical books, as well as the more important producers of medical texts.

We understand that the Subcommittee on Appropriations, of which you are chairman, is considering whether or not to place $25,000 in the legislative appropriation bill soon to come before the Senate for the purpose of continuing the United States Quarterly Book List. The book list, as you know, has been issued by the Library of Congress, although recently Rutgers University has assumed a share of that responsibility. The list remains, however, a Government-sponsored publication. It was started about 4 years ago by the Library of Congress, and while it has undergone changes from time to time—all of them reflecting an improvement—and while some may feel that it has not yet achieved perfection, the fact remains that the list has proven of decided value to the Department of State in disseminating current information overseas on valuable and needed books of United States origin. We understand that the U. S. I. S. Libraries, maintained by the Department of State in various parts of the world, report a tremendous interest in this publication on the part of citizens of foreign countries anxious to obtain up-to-date information on the best of American literature in book form.

It is our earnest belief that the great majority of the book publishers whom we represent would be gravely concerned by the discontinuance of the United States Quarterly Book List, considered the official Government emissary in the field of books, for lack of the relatively small but necessary $25,000 appropriation now being requested for its continuance. We also believe that responsible State Department officials feel that the loss of the book list would prove a considerable handicap.

At this particular era of history, when Government officials and private citizens alike are daily becoming increasingly aware of the need to disseminate accurate information on this country's technical know-how and democratic form of life, it seems to us that those Members of Congress in whose hands rests the decision as to whether or not the United States Quarterly Book List is to be continued should weigh carefully the effect of eliminating a reliable source of information on this country's most important publications in return for the comparatively minor budgetary saving which will result.

Book publishers in the United States, as represented by the members of this organization, the American Textbook Publishers Institute and the Association of American University Presses, are so aware of the need to utilize all channels of communication for spreading word of the American ideal abroad that a joint committee of the three organizations has collaborated in the preparation of a pamphlet entitled Books in World Rehabilitation, copy of which I enclose.[1] While no reference to the United States Quarterly Book List is made in the pamphlet, my purpose in sending it is merely to make available to you the thinking of virtually the entire book publishing industry on the broader aspects of the need to disseminate information on this country, its methods and ideals, at a time when it is so desperately desired. The United States Quarterly Book List plays an important part in this program: it is, so to speak, a link in the chain of communications for which there is no available replacement of which I am aware.

Mr. James S. Thompson, executive chairman of the board, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., who is a member of this organization's foreign trade committee and

[1] Being sent to you under separate cover.

also a member of the United States Quarterly Book List Advisory Committee established by the Library of Congress, has asked me, in his temporary absence from the city this week, to request permission of you to testify before your committee as to the importance of continuing the book list. Mr. Thompson will be available to appear before you at any time next week that you may desire.

I am taking the liberty of addressing a copy of this letter to the other members of the Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY F. WEST, *Managing Director.*

MAY 25, 1948.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNOR,
President, Grosset & Dunlap, Inc.,
New York City.

DEAR MR. O'CONNOR: This will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter relative to the legislative appropriation bill, in which you call particular attention to funds for the United States Quarterly Book List.

I am very glad to have your thoughts on this matter, and want to assure you that this particular item will have my most careful and open-minded consideration.

You will be interested in knowing that I have received a large number of letters on this same matter from people all over the country.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

MILTON R. YOUNG,
United States Senator.

GROSSET & DUNLAP, INC.,
New York, N. Y., May 20, 1948.

HON. MILTON R. YOUNG,
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR YOUNG: I am told that your committee is now considering the question of whether an appropriation should be made to continue the publication and distribution of the United States Quarterly Book List. Although this company has no direct selfish interest in the continuation of the list, for the simple reason that none of its books appear in the list nevertheless I feel I should express the opinion that as a measure of relatively inexpensive propaganda for our American democratic system this is one of the best that could be conceived.

There is no other systematic way of bringing new American book publications of importance, particularly in the fields of public affairs, science, and technology (from the American point of view) to the attention of influential opinion-forming groups in other countries.

The amount suggested for the purpose, which I understand to be $25,000, seems little enough, but I believe that at least this amount should be provided and that the United States Quarterly Book List, which has already established itself abroad, should not be allowed to lapse for lack of funds.

Cordially yours,

JOHN O'CONNOR, *President.*

MAY 25, 1948.

Mr. PAUL HOWARD,
Director, National Relations Office,
American Library Association, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. HOWARD: This will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter relative to the legislative appropriation bill, in which you call particular attention to funds for the United States Quarterly Book List.

I am very glad to have your thoughts on this matter, and want to assure you that this particular item will have my most careful and open-minded consideration.